

8 **DEVICE FOR ROTATABLY POSITIONING A CAMERA OR SIMILAR ARTICLE**

9 **ABOUT TWO ORTHOGONAL AXES**

10 **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

11 A positioning device is provided for rotatably positioning a camera or other

12 article about orthogonal rotational axes. The positioning device includes a carriage

13 supported for rotation about a horizontal axis by a yoke. The yoke is in turn rotatably

14 coupled to a base assembly for rotation of the yoke about a vertical axis. Rotation of the

15 camera about the horizontal and vertical axes is respectively effected by first and

16 second voice coil actuators, each comprising a pair of magnets and at least one coil to

17 which current is supplied. The amplitude and direction of the current supplied to the

18 coil determines the speed and direction of rotation of the camera. The second voice coil

19 actuator preferably includes a coil assembly comprising two opposed coils. This design

20 overcomes the angular range limitations associated with prior art voice coil actuators

21 and enables rotation of the camera about an extended angular range. The device can be

22 advantageously utilized for adjustment of the pan and tilt angles of a video camera in a

23 conferencing system.